

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 169419

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: PFOR, NG

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REPLY TO JULY 4 MESSAGE

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE IN RESPONSE TO LATTER'S FOURTH OF JULY MESSAGE, DATED JULY 4. QUOTE. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: YOUR KIND AND THOUGHTFUL MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS ON THE OCCASION OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR INDEPENDENCE AS A NATION SYMBOLIZES THE CLOSE FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL RESPECT WHICH HAVE LONG CHARACTERIZED RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLE. SINCERELY, GERALD R. FORD. UNQUOTE.

2. WHITE HOUSE DOES NOT PLAN RELEASE TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BUT HAS NO OBJECTION TO RELEASE BY GON.

3. FYI. FOLLOWING MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE. QUOTE. THE 199TH ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR COUNTRY'S
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PAGE 02 STATE 169419

INDEPENDENCE AFFORDS TO ME THE HAPPY OCCASION TO EXTEND TO

YOU AND, THROUGH YOU, TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WARM AND HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE NIGER PEOPLE AND THEIR GOVERNMENT AND ON MY OWN BEHALF. IN RENEWING TO YOU OUR EXPRESSION OF FRIENDSHIP, I REAFFIRM OUR WILLINGNESS TO STRENGTHEN FURTHER THE VERY FRUITFUL TIES OF COOPERATION THAT SO HAPPILY EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS. ONE HUNDRED NINETY-NINE YEARS OF INITIATIVE, OF SCIENTIFIC CONQUEST, AND OF TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS HAVE ELEVATED YOUR COUNTRY TO THE PREMIER POSITION AMONG THE WORLD'S INDUSTRIAL POWERS. THIS PRIVILEGED POSITION ACCORDS YOUR COUNTRY A LEADING ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA, PARTICULARLY IN THE DIFFICULT AND DELICATE PROCESS OF SEEKING TO MAINTAIN AND REINFORCE WORLD PEACE BY INSTITUTING DETENTE BETWEEN NATIONS AND BETWEEN PEOPLES AND BY ESTABLISHING A NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER THAT IS JUST AND FAIR FOR ALL. WE FERVENTLY WISH THAT THE ALMIGHTY MAY INSPIRE YOUR EXCELLENCY AND THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF AMERICA TO SUCCESSFULLY FULFILL THE WEIGHTY RESPONSIBILITIES THAT ARE YOURS TO BEAR. ACCEPT, MR. PRESIDENT AND DEAR FRIEND, OUR SINCERE WISHES FOR YOUR HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY (REMAINDER OF SENTENCE IS OBLITERATED). VERY HIGH CONSIDERATION, LT. COLONEL SEYNI KOUNTCHE PRESIDENT, SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL CHIEF OF STATE. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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